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PENNSYLVANIA

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 9, 2020

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, District of Columbia 20460

Dear Administrator Wheeler:

I write in support of the application submitted by the Allegheny County Health Department for funding from the Environmental Protection Agency's Targeted Airshed Program. I urge you to give this proposal full and fair consideration.

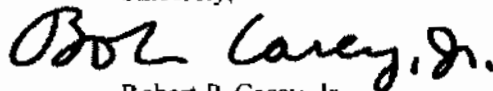
Like many metropolitan areas around the country, the Pittsburgh region is continuing to strive to improve its air quality. Although Port Authority's diesel buses have become cleaner as new buses with progressively lower emissions have been deployed, further reductions in emissions, particularly PM2.5 emissions, are possible.

If granted, the funds would be used to cover the costs of purchasing seven 60-foot battery electric buses (BEBs), three electric charging stations and associated infrastructure at the East Liberty Garage. This funding would cover the cost differential between seven BEBs and seven conventional diesel buses. The buses would operate in Pittsburgh's Downtown – Uptown – Oakland – East End Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor, connecting Pennsylvania's second and third largest economic centers. Deployment of BEBs in Pittsburgh would be an important strategy in reducing Allegheny County's PM2.5 emission levels, a goal of the EPA's Targeted Airshed program and are a major component of the BRT project, which would strengthen the connection between Downtown and Oakland and improve overall service reliability while reducing travel times in the Downtown – Uptown – Oakland – East End corridor.

Purchasing BEBs aligns with the region's elected officials, public health agencies and environmental organizations' goals for cleaner air. As BEBs more energy efficient than conventional diesel buses, have reduced maintenance costs and do not emit any tailpipe emissions of harmful gases, replacing diesel buses with BEBs would provide major air quality benefits in the communities where such buses operate.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this grant application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me or my staff at (202) 224-6851.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator